



# TOWN OF NEW LONDON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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**Town of New London  
Recreation Commission Meeting  
3/17/2009**

**Present:**

Keith Pomkoski, Chair  
Gerald Coogan, Vice Chair  
Laura James  
Allison McLean  
Jason Stadler  
Chad Denning, Director

The meeting was called to order by Chad Denning at 7:15A.M.

The minutes of the February 10, 2009 meeting were amended as follows: On page 3, Easter Plans, first line, Ms. James asked that the word “suggested” be changed to inquired. This change was made. The minutes were than approved as presented.

Mr. Denning began the meeting by showing the members the cover of the Summer Guide 2009 brochure, using his laptop. He said this brochure would soon be available on the web. The Commissioners were favorably impressed and suggested the words “Escape to Relaxation” be added on the cover. Mr. Denning said he would use the Town Report as an introduction in the brochure to show what the Recreation Department has been doing during the past year. He then asked if the brochure should be available in print. The consensus of the Commissioners was that having some printed copies available was a good idea. Ms. McLean suggested that copies be distributed to the library, post offices, doctor’s and dentist’s offices, New London Hospital and the schools. He said he spoke with Superintendent Frew about distribution in the schools and was told that although they could not hand them out to every child, they could be put in locations within school district buildings. Ms. Denning said that 1,800 copies were printed last year, but he thought there was probably considerable waste. This year he thought only 800 would be needed. He contacted the Kearsarge Shopper to determine printing costs. Their charge would be \$1,200. Mr. Denning contacted Techni Print in West Lebanon who will do the same job with the same paper quality for \$750 and will be able to start the printing job tomorrow. If more copies are needed, this company will produce them as needed. Mr. Denning said he will award the printing contact to Techna Print.

Mr. Denning said that registration for the summer programs will start April 1st, for the region, with New London residents having early registration available now. He said that any child can register for the programs, including those visiting the area, although the visitors would pay a non-residents fee for swimming, sailing, and kayaking.

Recap of 2009 Recreation Budget- Mr. Denning reported that at this point the Recreation Department budget has been approved by the Town as presented. He said that there was no discussion at Town Meeting regarding this budget and that it was passed with full support.

Easter Egg Hunt- Mr. Denning reported that everything that he had ordered for this event has been delivered. He asked the Commissioners for some help with stuffing eggs, with kids involved, if possible. It was decided to do this on Wednesday April 8th at 6:00P.M. upstairs in the Town Hall building. Ms. James suggested that perhaps the older kids could help stuff eggs and the younger ones could be involved in a hat decorating workshop. She volunteered to coordinate this workshop and hold it concurrently, downstairs in Town Hall. Mr. Denning said that 60-100 pre-stuffed eggs had been ordered, but the remaining ones will need to be done, saying that the more volunteers he had the quicker it would go. Ms. McLean volunteered to bring the pizza for the stuffing party. Mr. Pomkoski asked what the contingency plan was should there be a snow storm making the green unusable. Mr. Denning suggested that he would contact the Outing Club to use the old middle school, noting that unless there is a lot of new snow or rain, the egg hunt could still be held outside. He then wondered about using the elementary school, since that would mean that the entire school would be available, excluding the classrooms. Ms. James will check with the principal to see if he would approve this.

Lagoon Property and its Master Plan: Skatepark and High Ropes Course- Mr. Denning said that plans for this were on the back burner. He said that the Lagoon Property money got shut down and he is not sure it will ever happen. He said until something was done with the Lagoon Property from the State side, New London could not do anything with it. Mr. Coogan asked if there was a group of local parents that were really enthusiastic about this project. Mr. Denning said that he was not aware of such a group in New London. Mr. Denning said the first part of this initiative, for him at least, was the high ropes course. He thought this course could be used by the school district, Colby-Sawyer, and the Town, and anticipated that it would get a lot of use. Mr. Coogan asked if there was a budget for this. Mr. Denning replied that right now the Recreation budget has \$150,000 in capital reserve. However, he was not suggesting that this money be used for this, but thought perhaps that the Town, school district and Colby-Sawyer would share in the cost.

Spring Interns and their Focus- Mr. Denning said that he did not have any spring interns, since no one had approached him for this position. He said that the spring is a planning time for him and there is not a great deal for an intern to do. His greatest need for interns is in the fall, winter, and summer. He said he has hired a Colby-Sawyer student to do the summer brochure. He said that Patrick Dias, a summer intern from last year, wants to come back this summer. Mr. Dias had graduated from Southern New Hampshire University with a degree in Parks and Recreation and has just received a Masters Degree. He would like to work full time this summer and has been hired for \$13.00 per hour for 30 hours per week. While he is with the Recreation Department, he will begin a softball league, a waffle ball league (last year there were 10 teams in this league), and a video game tournament for both kids and adults, possibly using Wii, among other initiatives. Mr. Denning said Mr. Dias was a great help to the New London Triathlon last year and will help again this year. Mr. Denning said that Mr. Dias will bring many other ideas to the table and he was very enthusiastic to be returning to New London.

Trail Running Series and National Article Regarding. Great website [www.wnhtrs.com](http://www.wnhtrs.com)- Mr. Denning reported that the Trail Running Series grew by two races this year. So far, sponsors have contributed about \$4,000. He thinks that the sponsorship appeal is helped by so many different towns being involved. New London will again be the last race in the series. Mr. Denning said that the nice thing about having seven events is that the costs are split between seven towns, noting that last year New London paid for the final award, but this year the cost is split up by seven. Mr. Coogan asked if any money was made on this event last year. Mr. Denning replied that there was not, but he pointed out, we did not lose any either. So far there are 40 people signed up. Mr. Denning anticipated that there would probably be about 100 participants this year.

Eagle Scout Project/Winter Trails- Mr. Denning reported that the wood for the boardwalks has been delivered. Jessie Smearld, the Scout who is doing this project, will be building a boardwalk across the low lying areas. The Recreation Department is contributing \$800 to this effort. Mr. Denning suggested to the Boy Scouts, since they will already be out there, that they buy twenty 4x4 five foot posts for a story walk which would follow along the boardwalk. This project would be done in conjunction with the library. A book would be selected, the pages separated, laminated and mounted on these five foot posts placed along the trail. The nice thing about this is that the family gets to read a book as they walk along the trail. Additionally, it also gets people out using the community trail system. He noted that the book can be replaced periodically to keep the trails interesting, and book selection can be based around a theme that can be reinforced in the library or in school.

On another topic, Mr. Denning said that regarding the “safe routing to school” project, the recreation department has \$2,500 for programming from the State which was to be used for signage, bike rodeos, etc. He said this money will need to be spent by next year so there needs to be a program developed to utilize these funds. He will meet with Kevin Johnson, principal of the elementary school to come up with some ideas. He said he would not mind waiting until fall for this program, when the sidewalks will be completed. At that time he could have a program about sidewalk uses and safety.

Wii Fun Night at the Library/ Adult Dance Classes- Mr. Denning said that the Recreation Department and Tracy Library bought a Wii and he set up the projector, big screen and surround sound yesterday in the library meeting room. This is a separate room from the main library so sound would not be an issue. This is an interactive video game experience that includes many different activities (for example, bowling, golf, tennis, darts, hockey, exercising, etc.) which will attract not only kids but adults as well. Mr. Pomkoski suggested that COA be invited to participate as a way of attracting seniors. This experience will be available on Tuesday evenings from 5 – 7 P.M. Tonight is a trial run and those on the Recreation Department e-mail list were notified of this opportunity. Mr. Denning will be present to assist with questions or help someone get started, if needed. There will be a public announcement in the Kearsarge Shopper next week. Ms. McLean asked about how the use of the Wii would be structured. Mr. Denning said that right now, anyone could come and use it. If it got really busy then he was prepared to have designated usage times set aside. Mr. Denning said that Patrick Dias is thinking about having a Wii golf tournament at Whipple Hall this summer.

Mr. Denning announced that the Miss Natalie will be teaching ballroom dance classes in Whipple Hall. This class will be announced in the Kearsage Shopper tomorrow. He said she will hold hour long classes which include ballroom dancing, Latin, and club dancing or Salsa. They are also hoping to have a Club New London once a month held at Whipple Hall to give people an opportunity to use their new dancing skills. She has a whole DJ set up, and suggested that there could be different themes each month. The lessons will start in April on Thursday night, beginning at 5:00 – 8:30 P.M.

Rowing Club and NCAC- Mr. Denning reported that there will be a public hearing held on this initiative on Monday March 23<sup>rd</sup> at 8:00A.M. He said he has heard mostly supportive comments but there have been some negative comments which mostly concerned issues of parking and water disturbance by those who prefer the quiet morning waters to ski or wake board. He said that the Little Lake Sunapee Association is supportive of this project. Mr. Denning said that if this is approved, the Recreation Department gains the use of a new dock with handicap accessibility. This would be great for launching the sailboats. Boat storage would be by the bath house. Mr. Coogan suggested that perhaps this should be tried for a year and then evaluated. He also suggested that the Rowing Club provide some sort of visual as to where they would put the dock, etc. to enable people at the public meeting to better see what they had in mind. Mr. Pomkoski asked who would make the final decision. Mr. Denning said that the Board of Selectmen would. Mr. Pomkoski moved that the Recreation Commission support the Rowing Club initiative. This was seconded by Ms. McLean. There being no discussion, the motion was unanimously passed.

NCAC- The Upper Valley Aquatic Club (UVAC) recently opened in Hartford, VT. Mr. Denning said this facility has a water slide, lap pool, fitness center, and all state of the art. Since they have opened, many of the NCAC groups have moved to UVAC. As an example, Syndey Lindal who has been running the southern part of the NCAC now works at UVAC. Jamie Messer will be taking over for her in this area. At the same time the NCAC is going through its own speed bumps and has approached New London about taking this over. Mr. Denning said that he thought this was something we should pursue. He said Mr. Messer is all for it; he is already running the summer swim team for us, and the swim team during this shoulder season (which is not an NCAC program but rather a Recreation Department program leading into the summer). In the fall he will run the NCAC program through the Recreation Department which will do all the registrations and collect the money. It will still be under NCAC so that they can compete, but it will be overseen by the Recreation Department. Mr. Stadler said that there was a real need for a female coach because there were so many interested young female swimmers. Mr. Denning said that Susan Phipps has volunteered to assist until a female coach can be named. Mr. Denning said that he is interested in a developmental swimming program to interest the little ones in the sport, rather than having a strongly competitive program. Mr. Pomkoski asked about the cost to the Recreation Department. Mr. Denning said that the cost included renting the pool and paying Mr. Messer, but these costs are off-set through the fees deposited in the revolving fund. He said NCAC can be approached if additional funds are needed. Mr. Denning said that NCAC is currently paying for the pool time during this shoulder season.

Mr. Denning said that Dennis Aufranc contacted him regarding Babe Ruth baseball saying that they were in need of \$3,000 . Mr. Denning suggested that he find ways to raise money and asked if he had approached the Outing Club since they are the group with the baseball teams.

A discussion then followed regarding the future uses of the old middle school. It was suggested that perhaps a brainstorming session could be held between the Outing Club, the Recreation Department and the Kearsarge Community Center to see what ideas might be generated for the future.

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Recreation Commission will be Tuesday April 7<sup>th</sup> at 7:00A.M.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:17A.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen K. Colby  
Recording Secretary